



Energy
Information
Administration

Weekly Coal Production

Production for Week Ended:
March 21, 1992



Preface

The *Weekly Coal Production (WCP)* report provides weekly estimates of U.S. coal production by State.

Preliminary coal production data are published quarterly, based on production data collected using Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report." Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the coal production estimation error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the sum of the weekly estimates for a quarter and the quarterly EIA-6 preliminary data) ranges from 1 percent to 4 percent for 1988, 1 percent to 2 percent for 1989, and 0.3 percent to 3 percent for 1990.

Final coal production data are published annually, based on the EIA-7A coal production survey. Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the revision error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the EIA-6 preliminary data and the EIA-7A final data) ranges from 0.02 percent to 0.08 percent for 1988, 0.09 percent to 0.14 percent for 1989, and 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent for 1990. Usually the

EIA-7A coal production data are higher than the EIA-6 coal production data, due to the differences in the threshold reporting requirements.

This publication is prepared by the Survey Management Division; Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels; Energy Information Administration (EIA) to fulfill its data collection and dissemination responsibilities as specified in the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-275) as amended. *Weekly Coal Production* is intended for use by industry, press, State and local governments, and consumers. Other publications that may be of interest are the quarterly *Coal Distribution*, the *Quarterly Coal Report*, *Coal Production 1990*, and *Coal Data: A Reference*.

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This report was prepared by the Energy Information Administration, the independent statistical and analytical agency within the Department of Energy. The information contained herein should not be construed as advocating or reflecting any policy of the Department of Energy or any other organization.

Summary

U.S. coal production in the week ended March 21, 1992, as estimated by the Energy Information Administration, totaled 19 million short tons. This was about the same as in the previous week, and

slightly lower than in the comparable week in 1991. Production east of the Mississippi River totaled 12 million short tons, and production west of the Mississippi River totaled 7 million short tons.

Figure 1. Coal Production

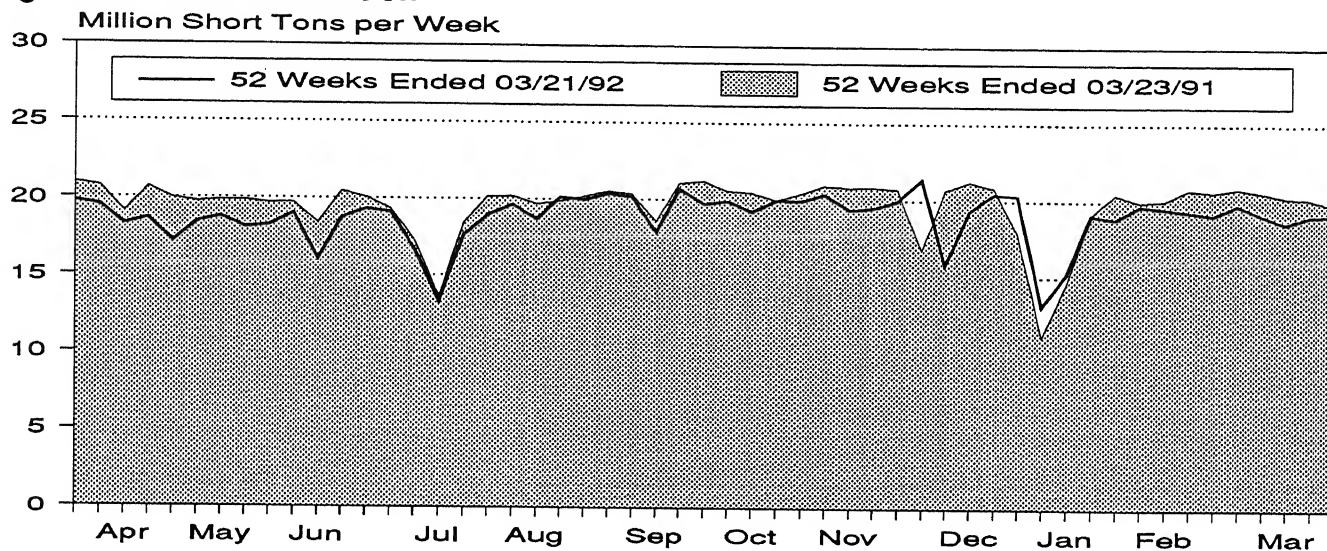


Table 1. Weekly U.S. Coal Production Overview

	Week Ended		
	03/21/92	03/14/92	03/07/92
Production and Carloadings			
Production (Thousand Short Tons)			
Bituminous Coal ¹ and Lignite . . .	19,152	19,057	
Pennsylvania Anthracite	50	59	
U.S. Total	19,202	19,116	
Railroad Cars Loaded	123,008	123,063	1

¹Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: All data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division; U.S. Department of Energy, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, coal production reports.

Table 2. Weekly Coal Production by Region and State
(Thousand Short Tons)

Region and State	Week Ended		
	03/21/92	03/14/92	03/23/91
Bituminous Coal¹ and Lignite			
East of the Mississippi	11,736	11,898	11,988
Alabama	557	589	550
Illinois	1,132	1,084	1,205
Indiana	603	626	656
Kentucky	3,058	3,039	3,148
Kentucky, Eastern	2,282	2,253	2,322
Kentucky, Western	776	785	826
Maryland	72	70	75
Ohio	571	641	632
Pennsylvania Bituminous	1,336	1,437	1,393
Tennessee	95	96	96
Virginia	881	887	889
West Virginia	3,432	3,430	3,345
West of the Mississippi	7,416	7,159	7,711
Alaska	35	35	25
Arizona	221	220	269
Arkansas	*	*	*
Colorado	325	319	299
Iowa	7	7	7
Kansas	10	9	9
Louisiana	50	69	70
Missouri	41	41	37
Montana	707	670	684
New Mexico	498	445	357
North Dakota	535	507	586
Oklahoma	52	41	24
Texas	972	967	996
Utah	418	398	366
Washington	95	94	100
Wyoming	3,449	3,336	3,881
Bituminous Coal¹ and Lignite Total . . .	19,152	19,057	19,698
Pennsylvania Anthracite	50	59	62
U.S. Total	19,202	19,116	19,760

¹subbituminous coal.

²in 0.5 thousand short tons.

If data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency reports.

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Natural Gas Monthly, updated on the 20th of the month

Weekly Coal Production, updated on Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

Quarterly Coal Report, updated 60 days after the end of the quarter

Electric Power Monthly, updated on the 1st of the month

Monthly Energy Review, updated the last week of the month

Short Term Energy Outlook, updated 60 days after the end of the quarter

Methodology

Weekly Data

Estimates of national weekly coal production are based on weekly carload data collected by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) from its members (Class I Railroads) and certain other railroads. EIA calculates the average number of tons per carload for each railroad's coal car fleet from information obtained from the most recent Quarterly Freight Commodity Statistics filed by Class I Railroads with the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and from data made available by individual railroads. The average number of tons per carload is then multiplied by the number of cars loaded to obtain an estimate of weekly production shipped by AAR railroads.

Next, the weekly coal production estimate for a specific week is obtained by dividing the AAR rail tonnage for the week by a factor representing the proportion of quarterly AAR rail shipments to total quarterly coal production. Because this is done on a weekly basis, and prior to completion of current quarterly statistics, the factor is derived using ICC data on tons per carload and total carloadings and from EIA data on total production for the same quarter of the previous year. Figures for the same quarter of the year are used in order to reflect seasonal variation. In some cases, the ratio of rail tonnage to total production is adjusted to take additional, more current information into consideration, such as rail or coal strikes.

Once the U.S. weekly coal production estimate is determined, this total is split into two subtotals - the portion representing States, with little or no rail coal shipments, and the portion representing the remaining States, where a significant percentage of production is shipped by rail. The States with little or no railroad coal shipments are Alaska, Arizona, California, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, and Washington. With the exception of California and Louisiana, the weekly production data for each "nonrail" State are developed by multiplying the estimate of U.S. weekly coal production by the ratio of projected production, for each State to U.S. total projected production, for the current quarter. The methodology used to project State coal production is given in the EIA publication *Model Documentation of the Short-Term Coal Analysis System* (DOE/EIA-0394). The EIA contacts the sole producer in Louisiana and California to obtain weekly production data.

Estimates for the remaining States are in aggregate equal to the U.S. weekly coal production minus the estimated production from the nonrail States.

Estimates for "rail States" are based on the AAR carload data compiled by State of origin, including separate estimates for the anthracite and bituminous coal regions in Pennsylvania, eastern and western Kentucky and northern and southern West Virginia.

Each railroad is contacted at least annually for information concerning the distribution (by state of origin) of its railroad carloadings of coal. These distribution percentages are multiplied by the railroad's weekly loadings and ICC derived tonnage per carload figures, to derive the weekly tonnages loaded by State and by railroad. The tonnages loaded by the various railroads are then summed by each State to estimate total production shipped by AAR rail for that State. These tonnages are divided by the most recent ratio of annual AAR rail tonnage to total annual production for each State. The resulting weekly coal production estimates for the rail States are then adjusted to ensure that each State's production figure contributes proportionately to the weekly coal production estimate previously derived in aggregate for the rail States.

Monthly Data

Preliminary estimates of monthly coal production by State are obtained by summing weekly coal production estimates published in the *Weekly Coal Production* report. If a week extends into a new month, the production is allocated by day, and the days are added to the month in which they occur. For weeks without holidays, the allocation is Monday through Friday, 18.4 percent each day; Saturday, 8 percent; and Sunday, 0 percent. For weeks with a holiday occurring on a day other than Sunday, the allocation is Sunday and the holiday, 0 percent; and any other day, 20 percent.

Preliminary weekly and monthly production estimates are revised quarterly when quarterly production data, become available. Preliminary weekly and monthly estimates are proportionately adjusted to conform to the quarterly production figure.

Quarterly Data

Estimates of quarterly coal production are based on data collected quarterly on Form EIA-6, with certain adjustments. The national estimate of quarterly coal production is set equal to the quarterly U.S. coal production total as reported on the Form EIA-6. Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the coal production estimation error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the sum of

the weekly estimates for a quarter and the quarterly EIA-6 preliminary data) ranges from 1 percent to 4 percent for 1988, 1 percent to 2 percent for 1989, and 0.3 percent to 3 percent for 1990.

The quarterly production data, although published throughout the year, are considered preliminary until EIA annual production data are finalized in September of the following year. At that time quarterly production data are revised (proportionately adjusted) to conform to the final annual production figures.

Finalizing Annual Production

Preliminary total annual U.S. coal production, as reported in the *Weekly Coal Production* report in the first week in January of the following year, is the sum of revised monthly/quarterly estimates of production for the first 9 months (first three quarters) and a preliminary estimate of fourth quarter production derived from weekly estimates.

When production data for the fourth quarter of the year become available from Form EIA-6 in March of the following year, the preliminary fourth-quarter U.S. total production figure and corresponding State-level figures may or may not be revised, depending on the size of the difference between the estimates and fourth-quarter data. As a general practice, EIA does not revise the initial annual production estimates (determined initially in January of the following year). Weekly, monthly, and quarterly State and national production data are adjusted to conform to finalized annual production figures derived from Form EIA-7A, in September of the following year.

Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the revision error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the EIA-6 preliminary data and the EIA-7A final data) ranges from 0.02 percent to 0.08 percent for 1988, 0.09 percent to 0.14 percent for 1989, and 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent for 1990. Usually the EIA-7A coal production data are higher than the EIA-6 coal production data, due to differences in the threshold reporting requirements.